

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT ON BILL NO. **H3993**

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| TO:       | The Honorable Joe E. Brown, Chairman, House Medical, Military, Public and Municipal Affairs Committee |      |         |
| FROM:     | Office of State Budget, Budget and Control Board  |      |         |
| ANALYSTS: | Kate Billing  |      |         |
| DATE:     | May 2, 2005   | SBD: | 2005465 |

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| AUTHOR:  | Representative Edge   | PRIMARY CODE CITE: | 43-31-170 |
| SUBJECT: | Training and Experience Requirements for Vocational Rehabilitation Counselors |                    |           |

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ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT ON GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURES:

\$0 (No additional expenditures or savings are expected)

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT ON FEDERAL & OTHER FUND EXPENDITURES:

A Savings to Federal and/or Other Funds

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**BILL SUMMARY:**

This Bill amends the SC Code of Laws by adding Section 43-31-170 to provide training and experience requirements that a counselor for the state agency of Vocational Rehabilitation must meet.

**EXPLANATION OF IMPACT:**

Current federal law requires vocational rehabilitation counselors to have a Master's degree in Rehabilitation Counseling unless an individual state has established standards for rehabilitation counselors. This Bill establishes state standards that are broader than the federal law, allowing vocational rehabilitation counselors to have a Master's degree in a related field with relevant coursework. As there is currently a lack of individuals with Master's degrees in Rehabilitation Counseling, The Department of Vocational Rehabilitation bears the cost for counselors to receive this degree where necessary. This Bill would allow the Department the less expensive option of hiring counselors with Master's degrees in related fields and then paying for relevant courses to ensure they meet the state standard. The Department of Vocational Rehabilitation estimates savings of approximately \$27,500 annually in federal funds for training costs.

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT IMPACT:**

None.

**SPECIAL NOTES:**

None.

Approved by:



Don Addy  
Assistant Director, Office of State Budget